

United Nations General Assembly: Special Political and Decolonization committee

Background Guide

Agenda

Militarization of outer space with special emphasis on Outer Space Treaty [1967] and Prevention of Arms Race [PAROS].



SELAQUI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MODEL

UNITED NATIONS 2019

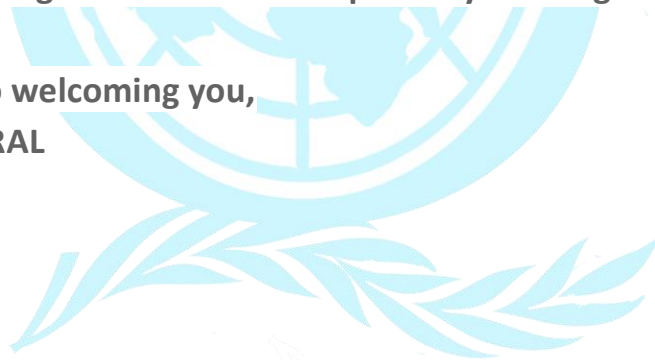
Table of Contents

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL	3
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON	4
DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS	5
INTRODUCTION	6
CURRENT SITUATION	7
THE OUTER SPACE TREATY OF 1967	8
PREVENTION OF THE PLACEMENT OF WEAPONS IN OUTER SPACE	9
ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED	10
PREVENTION OF ARMS RACE	11
HISTORIAL BACKGROUND	12
MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED	13
TIMELINE OF EVENTS	15
FOR THE DELEGATES	17
BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
POSITION PAPER POLICY	19

Letter from the Secretary General

It is my pleasure to welcome all you budding delegates to the 5th edition of SelaQui International School's signature MUN conference-QMUN. One of the country's premiere Junior MUNs, QMUN has grown from strength to strength in a short span of time. Since its inception, QMUN has had a special place for everyone in SelaQui, promoting negotiation, diplomacy and collaboration. Seeing the current state of the world, there has probably never been a greater need to simulate the world's foremost diplomatic organization- The United Nations. With hostile ideals progressively plunging the world into anarchy, the people of the world must rally as one if we hope to extract ourselves from the precipice. In this grand and often daunting scheme of things, one can make the mistake of neglecting the importance of the individual. This notion of reluctance - in various forms- acts as a catalyst for a myriad of issues that plague us. A delegate, therefore, has to shoulder enormous responsibility while evaluating events and formulating strategies to deal with their ramifications. With QMUN'19, we hope to provide young delegates a glimpse of what it takes to strategise and coordinate at a global level while developing intrinsic skills of diplomacy and negotiation.

Looking forward to welcoming you,
SECRETARY GENERAL



Letter from the Chairperson

Greeting Delegates,

It is my privilege to welcome you all to the committee of General Assembly - The Special Political and Decolonization Committee, colloquially- the SPEC-POL, which I hope will be a very stimulating one for all the delegates.

I have a wide range of interests scaling from International Relations to watching anime and web series like a madman. I am an ardent actor and have acted in many plays and have attended a couple of theater workshops as well. Also I like travelling and meeting new people.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is the fourth committee of the United Nations General Assembly. SPECPOL handles a wide variety of issues such as “decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace.”

It has been more than 50 years since the Outer space treaty was formed, still militarization of outer space is happening and anti-ballistic missile systems are being tested in the name of SO called “ peaceful pursuits”, the delegates must find a concrete solution to maintain peace in outer space. I expect all the delegates to be well versed with the agenda and the foreign policies of their respective country.

I want all delegates to keep in mind, that in the end more than the style and the manner, it's the content and the diplomacy that matters in a MUN. I would also encourage all the delegates to sustain the highest possible standard of debate that is expected at QMUN, with the involvement of as many delegates as possible.

See You Soon!

Warm regards

Arjun Rana

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

ARMAMENT:

Military weapons and equipment.

WEAPONISE :

Supply or equip with weapons.

ARMS RACE :

The term “arms race” refers to a situation of rivalry between two or more countries, with the aim of having “more and stronger weapons than each other”.

MILITARIZATION OF OUTER SPACE:

The term refers to the placement of military equipment in outer space, and/ or the use of outer space equipment for military purposes (of peaceful nature). Satellites constitute prime examples.

WEAPONISATION OF OUTER SPACE:

The term refers to the introduction of equipment and/or devices in outer space, that have the capacity of being used destructively.

SPACE RACE:

The competition between nations regarding achievements in the field of space exploration. Mostly refers to the race between the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War.

INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES (ICBM'S):

An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometers (3,400 mi) primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more thermonuclear warheads). This type of missiles uses similar technology with those used for space

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Committee for the Peaceful use of Outer Space was originally created in 1959 with the goal of governing space exploration while creating peace, security and developing space exploration programs. The committee is responsible for establishing what are known as the “five United Nations treaties on outer space” which include:

1. The Outer Space Treaty –

Principles Governing the activities of States in the Exploration of outer space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies a. outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind, States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities, outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States.

2. The Rescue Agreement –

Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of objects launched into outer space. a. provides that States shall take all possible steps to rescue and assist astronauts in distress and promptly return them to the launching State, and that States shall, upon request, provide assistance to launching

States in recovering space objects that return to Earth outside the territory of the Launching State.

3. The Liability Convention –

Convention on international liability for damage caused by space objects a. Liability Convention provides that a launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space objects on the surface of the Earth or to aircraft, and liable for damage due to its faults in space.

4. The Registration Convention –

Convention on Registration of objects launched into outer space a. to make provision for a mechanism that provided States with a means to assist in the identification of space objects. maintain the Register and ensure full and open access to the information provided by States and international intergovernmental organizations.

5. The Moon Agreement –

Agreement governing the activities of states on the moon and other celestial bodies. a. reaffirms and elaborates on many of the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty as applied to the Moon and other celestial bodies, providing that those bodies should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, that their

environments should not be disrupted, that the United Nations should be informed of the location and purpose of any station established on those bodies.

CURRENT SITUATION

In recent years many treaties have been proposed to further explore regulation of space militarization and its current and potential impacts on space activities. Some sentences summing up what has been unsuccessfully attempted. Recent actions from world leaders in space exploration have highlighted the gaps in current space regulations. Large and small countries alike have a vested stake in space militarization as to ensure it remains accessible to developing nations. If countries do pursue space militarization it will lead to conflicts and issues that will have a negative effect on all countries as natural resources are being used at high rates.

In 2018 President Donald Trump announced his intention to develop a new arm of military called the Space Force. The mandate of the new branch of military is said to focus on protecting existing communications infrastructure and satellites. Military and communications based activities in space have in the past been handled within the Air Force.

This announcement came on the heels of many years of space militarization advancements from Russia and China, the United States' two main rivals in the field of space exploration. China is seen by the

world as an aggressor when it comes to space exploration and the usage of outer space. China has developed and tested anti-satellite and anti-ballistic missile weaponry and it is believed this Chinese technology could destroy all US communication satellites. In 2007 China tested this technology by taking out a weather satellite. The shrapnel from which is still a danger to spacecraft and the event caused many in the international community to lose faith in the country's willingness to prioritize peace over self-improvement. It was reported China was developing a co-orbital anti-satellite system that would target many US space assets.

Militarization of space is not a new concept to Russia. Like China, Russia has been considered an aggressor in space exploration on the world stage. Vladimir Putin has most recently boasted development of a hypersonic glide vehicle that can be launched into space and act as a anti-missile defense.

While many past United Nations treaties address the militarization of space, the wording leaves much to be interpreted. As it seems militarization is plotting ahead despite the rules in place, the committee must endeavor to either specify the bounds of space militarization or create more effective and clear rules against it.

THE OUTER SPACE TREATY OF 1967

Currently, The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 governs nations on the activities and behaviours they may execute in outer space. The treaty lays out a basic framework of law including the following main principles:

- The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- Outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;
- Outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;
- The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- Astronauts should be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities;
- States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects;

- States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies;

This treaty is recognized by over 108 nations world-wide but accountability is hard to enforce with the current The treaty does not prohibit nations from acting defensively in space. With more nations developing military technology and entering space further legislation is critical.

Outer Space Treaty (1967)

- Does not allow national claims of territory
- Requires governments to supervise their citizen's activities
- Vague on liabilities, definitions, procedures
- Did not envision all possible activities
- Do possible commercial activities violate the treaty?



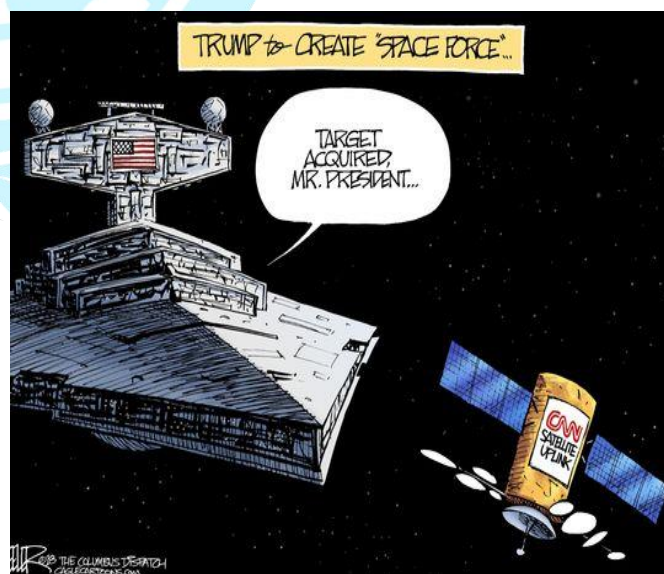
PREVENTION OF THE PLACEMENT OF WEAPONS IN OUTER SPACE

Along with existing UN treaties some effort has been made to further define and regulate militarization. Originally drafted in 2008 the, Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space treaty was drafted by Russia and China. After being originally rejected in 2008 the treaty was proposed again in 2014. The 2014 treaty included a legally binding ban on the placement of weapons in outer space with goal of creating both stability and equality in space exploration amongst nations. However, the draft failed to address many large-scale weapons such as direct-ascent anti-satellite systems or “breakout” weapons. The draft also failed to address the concept of space debris effectively.

WHAT IF MILITARY HARDWARE GETS INSTALLED IN SPACE?

As space becomes more accessible to humans, the installation of military hardware will be tempting and can set a new precedent for humanity, where space becomes militarized in the name of national security. If such actions would happen today, there are few agreed upon rules regulating conflict beyond earth. The committee should strive to answer what

would constitute a threat, what responses would be warranted and what the consequences of military actions in space could be for humans. It will be vital for delegates to not only understand the possible causes of conflict in space, but what will be the outcomes and how we can minimize if not completely eliminate the possibility of such a future. A new treaty should focus on addressing more specific issues opposed to creating lofty goals. The committee must further address and reaffirm bans on any nuclear testing in space and also be focused on having emerging nuclear states to sign on. Additionally, delegates must address what the future of weaponry in space might look like, including the possibility of Kinetic and High Energy weapons and the current threat of Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological (CBRN) threats beyond earth.



ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

Several issues regarding the development and effects of space militarization still remain unresolved with sometimes little to no consensus on what an appropriate solution can be. A glaring issue that remains is the extent of military action that can be justified for use in space. While there are treaties that explicitly ban testing nuclear weapons and placing nuclear weapons in space, there has been no treaty discussing the implementation of conventional weapons in space. With the current United States administration pursuing a military arm to deal with the realms of space, it remains unclear on how they will operate. Treaties signed in the past have also suggested that space exploration should only be reserved for peaceful exploration. Debate still swirls if such a standard can exist with the creation of a space oriented military forces and technologies.



Weapons of mass destruction are prohibited in space as stated in the Outer Space treaty. This generally refers to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. What is not addressed is the development of other weapons. While space is according to the treaties only to be used for peaceful pursuits, countries have been developing and using space weaponry for decades, justifying it as a way to create potentially life saving defence mechanisms.

Anti-satellite missiles have been in use since the cold war. They can be used to terminate spacecraft when it is no longer useful to the country but could easily have implications in warfare to destroy satellites that may be crucial to another countries defence or communication systems.

Another emerging form of space warfare is hacking into the satellites of other countries or private companies. This method can be employed by countries who are emerging into the realm of space exploration. Iran and the DPRK are among the countries that have been suspected of engaging in space cyber warfare. Should space treaties address this as an unpeaceful use of space or as a defensive technique that should be available to nations entering into the space race late.

PREVENTION OF ARMS RACE

Space has intrigued humanity from its very beginning. However, it was only after the Second World War that human technology made it possible for us to acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of space. Long range missiles, rockets and radio technology all contributed to the advancement of space-related knowledge. Nevertheless, these advancements could also be used for military purposes, and during the Cold War, the so-called “space race”, simultaneously an arms race, held extremely dangerous potential not only for certain nations, but humanity as a whole. Over the last decades, the United Nations have increasingly considered the possibility of an arms race outer space an issue of grave importance, and thus one that should be addressed. The Disarmament Committee has been the UN body directly and heavily involved with the issue for many decades.

In the aftermath of the Cold War and significant technological advancement, the vast majority of countries around the world are also increasingly concerned about the weaponisation of outer space – albeit to different degrees. Within this context, the UN is –as mentioned above– key in addressing such concerns, considering it the duty and obligation of both the UN and individual Member States to avoid an arms race in outer space. Thus, all UN actions relating to a possible arms

race in outer space are measures taken in advance to make certain that humanity will not be endangered.

International co-operation regarding the issue has led to many agreements and treaties, as well as the issue being very often discussed in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament. Some of the most important treaties include the Outer Space treaty and the Moon agreement. The United Nations believe that space should be used for peaceful purposes and diplomatic efforts from within the organization have contributed towards that goal. However, the most important issue lies with the fact that even though weapons of mass destruction have been banned from space, the same does not apply to other types of weaponry. Thus, the delegate of the Disarmament and International security committee must make sure to consider and address the “grey areas” of past proposals and decisions regarding the issue. An arms race in outer space might not be happening at the moment, but the United Nations is the sole international body capable of ensuring that this development won't take place in the future either.

HISTORIAL BACKGROUND



After the end of the Second World War, technology had advanced at extremely fast rates. During the war, most of the superpowers and in particular the United States and the Soviet Union, had developed advanced military technology as a means ensuring they would win the war. However, these developments and advancements were also useful in the field of space exploration. Missiles capable of being launched remotely and exit the earth's atmosphere provided a great opportunity for humankind to explore what we knew almost nothing about, namely outer space. Nevertheless, from the 1950s onwards the clash between the USSR and the US, which has been known as "the Cold War", resulted in the developed space technologies used as a means of the US and Soviet Union competing for supremacy in space exploration. Simultaneously, this "space race" also became almost synonymous with an arms race, as most technologies created for space exploration were immediately adapted to be used for

military purposes. Even though the Cold War did not result in a full-on war between nations and space remained a place of human cooperation, a form of an armsrace forspace indeed took place. Thisshould be taken into account when discussing the issue in the Disarmament Committee. An arms race in outer space might not be happening at the moment, but history has shown us the danger of such an event and thus it is our duty and obligation to ensure that outer space will remain an example of how humans, under the umbrella of the United Nations, co-operate in order to collectively advance our species, and not as an example of show of force or violence in any kind.

After the creation of the United Nations in 1945, the organization has been actively engaged in promoting co-operation and the peaceful use of space. In 1959; the United Nations General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS). The goal of the committee has traditionally been to encourage research regarding space exploration and outer space in general. Additionally, the committee also deals with the legal aspect of space and all the different pace programs sponsored by the UN.

During the Cold War, many agreements were signed regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space), the most important of them being the Outer Space treaty, the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (1975) and the

so-called Moon Agreement. Nevertheless, one should keep in mind that these treaties and agreements were not enough to ensure that an arms race in outer space would be avoided. Even though certain types of weapons like W.M.D (weapons of mass destruction) were formally banned from space, there was no common agreement regarding other types of weapons. Many nations continue to believe that the United Nations has still not done enough to completely ensure the prevention of a space arms race, with the so-called PAROS (Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space) has been an issue heavily debated during the years following the end of the Cold War.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States has openly criticized the usefulness of discussions regarding armaments in outer space in the context of the UN. The U.S critical stance towards PAROS should be examined both positively and negatively. On the one hand it can

provide “food for thought” about the mistakes that the UN has made regarding the issue and how any future negotiations can be improved in order to produce substantial results. On the other hand, U.S position stands in the way of any outer space related discussions having credibility. While the U.S continues to criticize the role of the UN when it comes to PAROS, the credibility of the discussions themselves decreases.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China has played an extremely active role in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) over the last decade. Propositions from the Chinese delegation regarding PAROS often deal with the legal aspect of outer space. The nation has also advocated in favor of strengthening the conference on disarmament and specifically the prevention of an arms race in outer space. China has seen substantial developments in its space capabilities in the Post-Cold War era, and now possesses advanced technologies such as ICBMs and ASATs. China wishes to continue its progress in its space militarization efforts and develop its programs. Also, one of China's main goals is to limit the United States' power and influence in space; the two nations are essentially locked in a de-facto arms race as of now.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Although the Soviet space program essentially became defunct with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia is still one of the world's leaders in space

Technology. Russia, much like the United States and China, has militarized space,

European Union

Although the European Union countries generally do not possess space arsenals comparable to those of the United States, they are still active in space and have significant interest and influence in the international decisions made regarding space weaponization. While these nations do recognize the economic and military importance of space militarization, they also advocate for a more refined code of

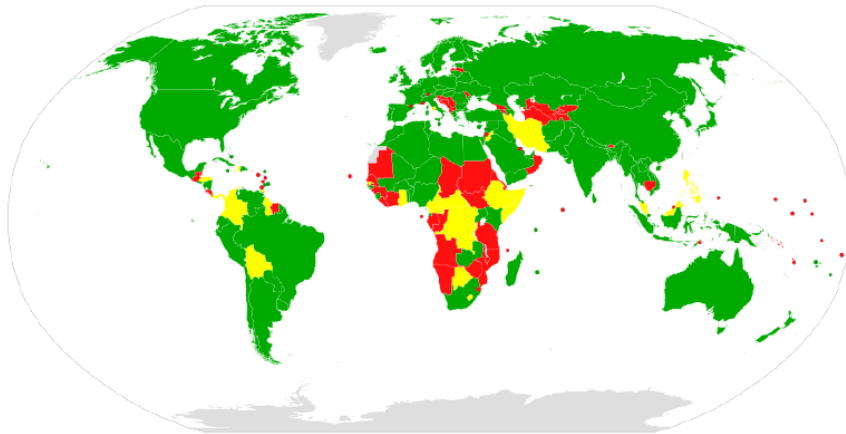
and possesses a substantial space arsenal. As is with China, Russia sees the United States as its main rival and threat, and will be looking to curb American influence in space as well as question controversial American decisions and actions regarding space militarization

conduct to maintain safety and peace in space. It is also worth noting that these nations are allied with the United States and would support the USA in the case of any disagreements. The United Kingdom, France, and Germany are the nations in this bloc that are the most active in space and have the most substantial space arsenal.

What about Nations without Space technologies?

Most of the developing world currently lacks the space capabilities; however, these countries are no less relevant to the

topic. These nations are highly concerned about the potential harms of the weaponization of space, and thus would be supportive of tighter regulations or a ban on space weapons and technologies. Preventing an arms race in space is the highest priority for these nations because of the security threats associated with the possibility



Green countries are parties to the Outer Space Treaty, yellow countries are signatories and red countries are non-parties [32].

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
August 21, 1957	First intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) (modified to be used in Sputnik 1)
April 12, 1961	First human spaceflight (Yuri Gagarin)
October 10, 1967	Outer Space Treaty
July 20, 1969	First humans on the Moon (Apollo 11)
July 15, 1975	First multinational human-crewed mission (Apollo-Soyuz Test Project)
August 19, 1993	Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on PAROS (Conference on Disarmament)
February 4, 1999	Proposal concerning CD action on Outer Space
June 28, 2002	Possible elements of the future international legal instrument on the prevention of deployment of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects (CD-PAROS)

June 23, 2006	Basic Documents of the Conference on Disarmament related to the Prevention of an
June 15-16, 2009	Conference: "Space Security 2009: Moving towards a Safer Space Environment"
March 29-30, 2010	Conference organized by UNIDIR entitled "Space security 2010: From foundations to negotiations"

The Arms Race

Lesson Objectives

- 1) Understand the consequences of the Arms Race
- 2) Define and Identify key developments in the Arms Race



For the Delegates

As it can be seen the UN has already been active in dealing with a potential arms race in outer space. However, there are still certain loopholes regarding the work that the UN has done about the topic. The first step to solving the issue should definitely be more legislation. Delegates should ensure that the proposed legislation would deal with all aspects of outer space and specifically the use of any type of weaponry in space.

After the legal aspect has been established, delegates should work with a spirit of communication and mutual respect to promote international discussions and co-operation in the field of space exploration and specifically make sure that such co-operation will always be peaceful. Another measure could be proposing the creation of specific international conferences specifically about PAROS, in order to highlight the importance of the issue in the area of disarmament.

As previously mentioned, the United States of America have played a critical and important role regarding armaments and outer space, thus, the delegates must ensure that the United States do play an active role in the committee's discussions and the resolutions. Within this context it is important for the different concerns expressed to be taken into consideration

by introducing both voluntary measures, as well as more binding ones that will be of benefit to the security of the all the nations involved.

Furthermore, disarmament is an issue that interests not only nations, but the citizens of the world themselves. Therefore, steps must be taken in order to raise public awareness regarding the dangers and the risks of a possible arms race in space, in order to inform the public and make the people understand the importance of avoiding such an event. Finally, the delegates must understand that during the creation of their resolution, it is vital to address all aspects of the issue at hand, as it is important for the final resolution to have a holistic approach towards PAROS.

1. **Space militarization has been being pursued since the very beginnings of space exploration. Going forward do we lean into and regulate militarization or focus on de escalation?**
2. **How do we create accountability for member states to follow regulations?**
3. **As we move forward with space exploration and utilization should past treaties be subject to change?**
4. **Weapons of mass destruction are banned in space but it can be argued that the most primitive space weapons could be used to cause mass devastation. How do we reconcile this?**
5. **What are the key topics stopping space resolutions from passing and how can this committee get past that?**

"A/RES/51/44. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space." United Nations. United Nations, ♣ n.d. Web. 28 June 2017.

"Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space ." Federation of American Scientists :: Prevention of ♣ an Arms Race in Outer Space. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 June 2017.

"Outer Space." Critical Issues. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 June 2017 ♣

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coburn, Commentary Jesse. "Is Space Warfare Inevitable?" Quartz, Quartz, 5 Oct. 2015, ♣ qz.com/516141/is-space-warfare-inevitable/.

"Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space (PAROS) Treaty.

" Nuclear Threat Initiative - Ten ♣ Years of Building a Safer World. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 June 2017.

"CD Documents Related to Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space – UNODA."

POSITION PAPER POLICY

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of your positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support. At Selaqui international Model United nations , delegates should write a position paper for each of the committee's topics. Each position paper should not exceed one and a half page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate.

- Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research .(not included in the 1-page limit)

Formatting Position papers should:

- include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee.
- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 14-point font size and 1-inch document margins.
- Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders.